

**00857**

**1971/09/21**

HOUSE  
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ACTION  
REQUIRED?

Col Kennedy

nt of State

Amb. Porter proposes  
to answer  
affirmatively if PRG goes  
meeting with US if it

TELEGRAM

is publicly understood  
that meeting would just

CONTROL: 5540Q

RECD: 21 Sept 8:37 AM

concern info on US press

TE 5092  
EDIATE 9396

NO 11:11  
not meet with  
ON ON PRISONERS EXCLUSIVELY PRG

REF USDEL FRANCE 15820

1. AS SET FORTH IN REFTTEL, THIS WEEK WE PLAN TO ASK THAT  
MME BINH BRING BACK FROM VIET-NAM A LIST OF PRISONERS  
CAPTURED IN SOUTH VIET-NAM.

2. THIS RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OTHER SIDE WILL  
COUNTER BY INDICATING THAT THE PRG IS READY TO DISCUSS THE  
PRISONER ISSUE PRIVATELY WITH THE US DELEGATION. THIS WOULD  
BE A VARIANT OF THEIR PREVIOUS PROPOSAL, REPEATED AGAIN IN  
THE PAST TWO SESSIONS, THAT WHILE THEY FEEL THEIR PROGRAM  
IS CLEAR AND EXPLICIT, IF WE WISH FURTHER CLARIFICATION,  
THE PRG DELEGATE WOULD MEET IN PRIVATE WITH THE US  
DELEGATE.

3. IF THE OTHER SIDE RESPONDS IN THIS FASHION, I PLAN TO  
REPLY WITH A SERIES OF QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE  
THAT SUCH A RESPONSE IS ONLY A MANEUVER CALCULATED TO PLAY  
ON THE WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT WE WILL NOT AGREE TO SUBSTANTIVE  
NEGOTIATIONS IN ANY FORUM AT WHICH THE PRG IS PRESENT AND  
THE GVN IS ABSENT.

4. IN FORMULATING MY TACTICS I WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE  
FOLLOWING:

A. TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE DEAL DIRECTLY AND  
EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE PRG ALONE IN GENERAL SUBSTANTIVE  
NEGOTIATIONS, THE ANSWER IS NEGATIVE.

SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE

DECLASSIFIED

IE EXECUTIVE SECRET

NOT TO BE REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE

Authority

ED 12758



# Department of State

SECRET

Amb. Porter proposes

to answer affirmatively if PRG suggests meeting with US if it

**TELEGRAM**

is publicly understood that meeting would just

CONTROL: 5540Q

RECD: 21 Sept 8:37 AM

concern info on US prisoners

O 211205Z SEP 71  
FM USDEL FRANCE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5092  
INFO RUEHCR/AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE 9396  
BT  
S E C R E T USDEL FRANCE 15884

NODIS

PARIS MEETINGS/PLUS

SAIGON FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

SUBJ: DEALING WITH PRG DELEGATION ON PRISONERS EXCLUSIVELY

REF USDEL FRANCE 15820

1. AS SET FORTH IN REFTEL, THIS WEEK WE PLAN TO ASK THAT MME BINH BRING BACK FROM VIET-NAM A LIST OF PRISONERS CAPTURED IN SOUTH VIET-NAM.

2. THIS RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE OTHER SIDE WILL COUNTER BY INDICATING THAT THE PRG IS READY TO DISCUSS THE PRISONER ISSUE PRIVATELY WITH THE US DELEGATION. THIS WOULD BE A VARIANT OF THEIR PREVIOUS PROPOSAL, REPEATED AGAIN IN THE PAST TWO SESSIONS, THAT WHILE THEY FEEL THEIR PROGRAM IS CLEAR AND EXPLICIT, IF WE WISH FURTHER CLARIFICATION, THE PRG DELEGATE WOULD MEET IN PRIVATE WITH THE US DELEGATE.

3. IF THE OTHER SIDE RESPONDS IN THIS FASHION, I PLAN TO REPLY WITH A SERIES OF QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT SUCH A RESPONSE IS ONLY A MANEUVER CALCULATED TO PLAY ON THE WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT WE WILL NOT AGREE TO SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS IN ANY FORUM AT WHICH THE PRG IS PRESENT AND THE GVN IS ABSENT.

4. IN FORMULATING MY TACTICS I WOULD BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING:

A. TO ANY SUGGESTION THAT WE DEAL DIRECTLY AND EXCLUSIVELY WITH THE PRG ALONE IN GENERAL SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS, THE ANSWER IS NEGATIVE.

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TIVE SECRETARY

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ED 12958



Department of State  
SECRET

TELEGRAM

-2- USDEL FRANCE 15884

21 Sept 1971

B. IF THE OFFER IS MADE THAT THEY WILL MERELY LISTEN TO OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SEVEN POINTS AND PRESENT CLARIFICATION WITH NO ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT, THE ANSWER IS STILL NEGATIVE.

C. IF THE OFFER IS TO CLARIFY EXCLUSIVELY THEIR DELCARED SEVEN POINT POSITION ON THE PRISONERS, THE ANSWER IS STILL NEGATIVE.

D. IF THE OFFER IS TO BARGAIN EXCLUSIVELY ON THE EXCHANGE OF SOME OR ALL PRISONERS, WITH NO POLITICAL OR MILITARY CONDITIONS ATTACHED, I WOULD NAIL DOWN THE OFFER AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE AF SEEK INSTRUCTIONS.

E. IF THE OFFER IS TO MEET WITH THE PRG EXCLUSIVELY TO RECEIVE INFORMATION, IF IT IS CLEARLY AND PUBLICLY UNDERSTOOD THAT NOTHING ELSE WOULD TAKE PLACE BUT THE ACCEPTANCE OF INFORMATION ABOUT US PRISONERS, AND IF THE OTHER SIDE REFUSED ALL PROPOSALS TO HAND THE INFORMATION OVER AT PLENARY SESSION, HAND IT TO AN INTERMEDIARY, OR MAKE IT PUBLIC, I WOULD ANSWER IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. IN DOING SO, I WOULD DEMONSTRATE THAT THE OTHER SIDE'S INSISTENCE ON PLACING THE INFORMATION IN OUR HANDS AT A PRIVATE MEETING WAS SIMPLY A PROPAGANDA MANEUVER, BUT THAT WE WOULD NOT LET THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF GETTING INFORMATION ON OUR MEN. I WOULD REPEAT THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET WITH ANYONE ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING OFFICIAL INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICAN PRISONERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

5. IF THE OTHER SIDE IS MUTE ON THE QUESTION OF MEETING WITH THE PRG DELEGATION EXCLUSIVELY ON PRISONERS BUT NEWSMEN OR OTHERS SHOULD POSE POSSIBILITIES "C," "D," OR "E" ABOVE AND INQUIRE THAT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCE OUR POSITION WOULD BE, WE WILL DISMISS SUCH QUESTIONS AS HYPOTHETICAL AND WILL RESTATE IF NECESSARY OUR STANDARD POSITION THAT WE ARE READY FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN ANY FORUM THAT DOES NOT EXCLUDE ONE OF THE NECESSARY PARTIES REPRESENTED HERE.

6. UNLESS DEPARTMENT PERCEIVES OBJECTION WE PLAN TO BRIEF GVNDEL ON THESE CONTINGENCY POSITIONS PRIOR TO NEXT PLENARY SESSION. EMBASSY SAIGON MAY WISH TO INFORM GVN IN SIMILAR FASHION. GP-3.

PORTER

BT

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